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Cuba

Government Reports Departure of Group to U.S.

PA0405004588 Havana International Service in Spanish 2315 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] A Cuban Interior Ministry source has said in Havana that a group of 22 persons, made up of 7 inmates, a former counterrevolutionary prisoner, and their closest relatives, is supposed to leave for the United States early tomorrow.

This will be the fourth group to emigrate to the United States since the resumption of the implementation of the immigration agreements signed by Havana and Washington in 1984. This implementation was interrupted in 1985 when an anti-Cuban radio station began broadcasting.

According to the same source, approximately 140 people, including prisoners, former counterrevolutionary prisoners, and their relatives must leave the country for the United States this month.

Just like the three former groups, the group to leave on Wednesday includes persons for whom the U.S. Catholic Church interceded with the Cuban Government.

Beginning of Four-Way Talks on Angola Reported

FL0305181588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The quadripartite meeting of the Cuban-Angolan and South African-U.S. delegations began today in a hotel in London to discuss the conflict in southern Africa.

The delegations are presided over by Jorge Risquet Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, and Afonso Van Dunem, Angolan foreign minister.

The U.S. delegation is headed by Chester Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, and Neil Van Heerden, director general of the South African Foreign Ministry.

The meeting is being held behind closed doors and it is expected to focus on ending South Africa's aggression against Angola and ending aid from Pretoria and Washington to the Angolan counterrevolutionary bands, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

Another central point of the talks will be the independence of Namibia, occupied illegally by South Africa, and the gradual and total withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops who, along with those of Angola, have been confronting Pretoria's aggression.

According to the Soviet press agency, TASS, those attending the quatripartite talks are expected to meet with representatives of the Government of Great Britain because of that country's extensive ties to the South African regime.

Observers in London have not been very optimistic about results from the meeting because the United States and South Africa are first seeking the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, which is considered to be unacceptable.

The South African representative said, upon his arrival in London, that any hasty optimism should be avoided, while Risquet, Van Dunem, and Crocker did not make any statements.

Aguirre in Bonn; Cited on Angola Withdrawal

FL0205234988 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] A delegation from our country's National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], headed by its Acting President Severo Aguirre del Cristo, arrived in Bonn today. The Cuban parliamentarian delegation will pay a 7-day official visit to the FRG at the invitation of Phillip Jenninger, president of the FRG National Assembly.

Further on Remarks

LD0405121888 Hamburg DPA in German 1136 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—According to its parliamentary president, Severo Aguirre del Cristo, Cuba is prepared to withdraw its troops from Angola as soon as the government in Luanda wishes. However, the precondition for this is a genuine and just peace settlement for southern Africa, Severo Aguirre del Cristo said in Bonn Wednesday. He gave Cuban losses in Angola to date as around 1,000 men. In contrast, South Africa speaks of around 5,000 Cubans killed.

The National Assembly president is leading a delegation on a 1-week visit to the Federal Republic. The Cubans had talks in Bonn Wednesday with Bundestag President Philipp Jenninger and representatives of the parties in the Bundestag.

Meets Netherlands' Lubbers

FL2804183188 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] In Amsterdam Netherlands Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers has received a delegation from Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. The delegation is headed by acting ANPP President Severo Aguirre.

'Indestructible' Bonds With Angolans Noted

FL0205184588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 2 May 88

[Report by unidentified FAR war correspondents from Cuito Cuanavale]

[Text] During the difficult combat days which Cubans and Angolans are going through, we can see once again the indestructible bonds of friendship, respect, and solidarity which unite the two peoples.

[Begin recording] [First speaker, in Portuguese] With regards to the relations between the Cuban and Angolan comrades, it is good because we do things as if we were all Angolans or Cubans. That is why there is no distinction between us. The work that an Angolan does is the same work that the Cuban does.

[Correspondent] What is your specialty?

[Second speaker] I am a squad leader, the grenade launcher, [words indistinct]. The comrade is [words indistinct], and now each one of us has a grenade launcher because were are joined with the FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola]. I have two comrades from the FAPLA who are made available to me, and there are two Cubans available to them. We help each other there. We give them classes so that they learn to properly use the grenade launchers and other things.

[Reporter] What happens if the South Africans attack again?

[Third speaker] If they attack again, they will just remain there. We are prepared for that.

Further Reports on Rodriguez Visit to Brazil

Views Relations With U.S.

PA0305201288 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez told a Brazilian journalist that the reestablishment of relations between the United States and Cuba will be a prolonged and difficult process that will require a substantial change of attitude in Washington.

In an interview given to the Brazilian weekly VEJA, Rodriguez stated that in order for U.S.-Cuban ties to return to normal, the White House must respect Cuba's sovereignty, dismantle Guantanamo Naval Base, and stop trying to do in our country what it is trying to do in Panama. The Cuban official described the slander and pressure exerted by the United States on the Panamanian Government and peoples as an example of unacceptable political arrogance.

Presides at Debt Conference

FL0305144788 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of Cuba, presided over the international conference on the foreign debt which began yesterday in Brasilia.

During the opening of the 3-day conference, the secretary general of the Third World Foundation, (Altaf Gauhad) from Pakistan; the director of the University of Brasilia, (Cristobal Buarque); and Brazil's minister of finance, Mailson da Nobrega, spoke on behalf of the organizers.

Furthermore, in an interview published by the weekly magazine VEJA, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said that the complete reestablishment of relations between the United States and Cuba will be a prolonged and difficult process. He said that for the normalization of those relations, two conditions must be met: an attitude of mutual respect and the evacuation of Guantanamo Naval Base.

Urges Joint Decision on Debt

FL0405143988 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez spoke yesterday at the conference on the foreign debt which is taking place in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil.

The Cuban official predicted that the days President Fidel Castro spoke of are nearing. Castro forewarned that in a brief period of time underdeveloped countries would be forced to give their decision on not paying the debt in full or in part. He said that the first thing that must be done about this problem is to go from individual attempts to collective decisions.

Cooperation Meeting With Yugoslavia Begins

FL2804003588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] The seventh Cuban-Yugoslav intergovernmental meeting for economic and scientific-technical cooperation began at the Sierra Maestra Hotel today.

The purpose of the meeting is to study and assess cooperation and trade during the period between meetings and future cooperation in science and technology.

The parties are headed by Ricardo Cabrisas, Cuban minister of foreign trade, and Aleksandar Donev, member of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia.

Joint Economic Session Held

LD280345 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1915 GMT 27 Apr 88

[Text] Havana, April 27 (TANJUG)—Regular session of the Yugoslav-Cuban Joint Committee for Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation opened in Havana today. Both sides noted that bilateral economic relations are developing favourably and recording [word indistinct] trend although not in all areas.

The committee' co-chairmen, Yugoslav Market and General Economic Affairs Secretary Aleksandar Donev and Cuban Foreign Minister Ricardo Cabrisas said that possibilities for the further expansion of ties between the two countries lie in more advanced forms of cooperation, primarily in the joint appearnce on third markets, especially in Africa.

Yugoslav-Cuban trade amounts to [word indistinct] 70 million dollars per year, with a marked surplus on the Yugoslav side acting as an obstacle to further advancement of economic ties.

The appearance of Yugoslav producers in Cuba and the bulk of Cuba's imports from Yugoslavia are financed by a 200-million-dollar credit which Yugoslavia granted to this Caribbean state.

Santiago de Cuba Tour

FL2904183288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Comrade Aleksandar Donev, secretary of market and general economic affairs of the SFRY, has made a friendly visit to the city of Santiago de Cuba.

Donev was met at the airport in Santiago de Cuba by Eddie Fernandez, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the provincial assembly of the people's government.

While in Santiago de Cuba, Donev visited the historic 26 July Museum where the group led by Fidel renewed the fight for the permanent liberation of our people.

Another important area visited during the tour was the construction site of the theater that will hold the Fourth PCC Congress.

Esteban Lazo [first party secretary in Santiago de Cuba Province] met with Donev and his delegation, who also toured the Siboney farm and the Baconao park.

Cuba, Burkina Faso Begin Cooperation Meeting

FL2604165788 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] A Cuban delegation has been participating since yesterday in the tasks of the third meeting of the joint cooperation commission between Cuba and Burkina Faso. The meeting will take 4 days and will allow a first assessment of the mutual problems of 1987-89 cooperation.

Peace, Development, Solidarity Meeting Opens

FL0305185688 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] has hosted the international trade union meeting for peace, development, and solidarity as a contribution of trade union workers to the most urgent problems of today's world. The meeting was presided over by Roberto Veiga Menendez, secretary general of the CTC and member of the PCC Politburo.

Jesus Escandel, from the national secretariat of the CTC, gave the opening speech. He called for concerted action that will lead to the elimination of nuclear danger, neutralize the hegemonic goals of the U.S. military complex and its Western allies, and ensure that our children will not to be victims of bombs or devastated by hunger.

The spirit of the heroic guerrilla Ernesto Che Guevarra prevailed throughout the meeting, on the 60th anniversary of his birthday, because his life and his example transcend all borders. His philosophy is also a valuable legacy for those like him who gave their lives for the total liberation of the people.

Afterwards, the trade union workers who were invited to the 1 May activities gave their messages of support to the peoples and their message for concerted action against the foreign debt and for freedom, true democracy, development, and social justice.

Barbados

Opposition Party Calls for 'Fresh Elections'

FL0205224388 Bridgetown CANA in English 0001 GMT 30 Apr 88

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 29, CANA—The opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP) on Friday called for fresh elections, following Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford's imposition of a record Bds110.6 million dollars in new taxation in his 1988 budget.

Shadow Finance Minister Owen Arthur, replying to the government's budgetary proposals, said Barbadians had voted the Democaratic Labour Party (DLP) into office two years ago on the basis of its programme of reduced

taxation. Arthur said Sandiford's package presented on Thursday, introduced the "largest set of tax increases" ever seen locally, and probably in the English-speaking Caribbean.

"Let it...be clearly understood that in discarding its initial economic policy and by introducing an entirely new policy, the Democratic Labour Party has stripped itself of any political mandate or any moral authority for the course of action on which it is about to embark," the former junior finance minister told the House of Assembly.

"...When a government so entirely by its own admission betrays the confidence and the faith reposed in it by the people of the country, I submit...that the time has come to allow the people again to decide their own destiny," Arthur added. [passage omitted]

Haiti

Jean-Rabel Deputy on 23 June Massacre

FL3004012088 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1700 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Report on interview with Jean-Rabel Deputy Jean-Michel Richardson by (Jean Ely Theodore Pierre-Louis on 29 April; place not given]

[Excerpts] Following the rumors of the possibility of a new massacre in the Jean-Rabel area that we reported yesterday, today we interviewed Jean-Rabel Deputy Jean-Michel Richardson.

Regarding the violent incidents that took place last 23 June among peasants and left a toll of some 100 victims, Jean-Michel Richardson wishes to deny the accusations that the big landowners' henchmen were responsible. The deputy recalls the events leading to the massacre in question. He accuses the Cooperative Action Group [Mouvman Tet Ansanm] and the other groups in the Catholic Church movements of being the real instigators of the massacre.

Richardson also says that Dr Louis E. Roy almost got himself lynched by the town residents when he went there on the first anniversary of the Constitution. Lastly, he accuses the Catholic Church of having received $50,000 from Jean-Claude Duvalier to develop that local infrastructure, without, nevertheless, being able to show proof.

Here is Jean-Rabel Deputy Jean Michel Richardson interviewed by (Jean Ely Th. Pierre-Louis).

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Richardson] [Passage omitted] But after the massacre took place, the people who caused it went around blaming other people for it. They said the big landowners and the macoutes were responsible for the massacre. I'm not saying that the big landowners are great people who work for the good of the peasants, and everyone knows the Tontons Macoute weren't good. [passage omitted]

We know the cause of the massacre was a missionary group that was organizing a group of people called Cooperative Action Group [Groupman Tet Ansanm] and that they misinstructed those people. Instead of teaching them to read and write with the money Misyon Alfa [the Catholic Church's literacy program] had given them; instead of teaching them to plant; instead of teaching them things that would enable them to not go hungry in the future; instead of assembling them for that purpose, they were getting them together so they could put machetes in their hands.

And it was later shown that on 23 June those people went on a sort of punitive expedition [words indistinct] in a little place called La Coma, 30 miles from La Montagne. They rounded them up them at midnight, and at around 0800 they arrived at their destination. They went to fight the La Montagne people. [passage omitted]

You know what the far west [preceding two words in English; referring to the far northwest of Haiti] is like! Sometimes I wonder if the people leading the country back then were aware that such an area even existed in Haiti. In a place like that, you can do as much good, or as much evil, as you like.

According to my information, those men had spent at least $40 million over a period of 2 or 3 years. I saw what they were able to accomplish. [passage omitted]

Those people would have taken anything you gave them, good or bad. They were hungry. They didn't know how to read or write. If you told them you were going to feed them, and if you did feed them, they would do whatever you wanted. [passage omitted]

There is nothing negative in organizing the peasants. I am not against anyone assembling the peasants to good ends such as learning to read, write, plant, and so forth, so that the peasants will have a [words indistinct], but I am not in favor of people who come to say that is why they are assembling the peasants and who then teach them something different.

I am against the people who came to instruct them because the instructors came from here. They themselves are well instructed. They know what they want. They have an ideology they wish to propagate, and they use the impoverished peasants who can't read or write to propagate it with. [passage omitted]

[(Pierre-Louis)] You said Jean-Claude Duvalier gave $50,000 for infrastructure works in the area. Do you have proof on which to base such a statement?

[Richardson] Yes. I don't have the issue of LE MONITEUR [the official gazette], though. I read it in LE MONITEUR before the Duvalier departure. It isn't the $50,000 that brought in the electricity, but Jean-Claude also gave $50,000 to bring in the electricity. There are people who pretend they never had anything to do with Jean-Claude, but they, too, used to go ask him. [passage omitted]

Everyone got scared after the massacre. That is why in certain Jean-Rabel area people say they won't deal with Haitian priests. [passage omitted] They say they would rather have foreign priests. [passage omitted]

So now, when people talk, they talk as if there could be another massacre. You hear about 200 or 300 victims. There were more than 1,000 people killed in the Jean-Rabel area! They just can't give the figure.

Now, those people are here. The group that organized the punitive expedition is in Port-au-Prince. They are organizing themselves, holding meetings and so forth, in order to return and effect some kind of revenge. Since sometimes they cannot go themselves, they send someone else, as a leader. [passage omitted]

For example, recently there was an expedition that was allegedly going to do something in connection with the celebration of the Constitution's first anniversary. They even invited Dr Louis Roy. Dr Louis Roy perhaps didn't know what was going to happen, but they used him so they could pretend it was connected with the Constitution when this was really not the case. Dr Louis Roy almost got beaten up. [passage omitted]

The guy who died was a group leader whom they sent to Port-de-Paix. [passage omitted]

[(Pierre-Louis)] But the Catholic Church does not just have branches in Jean-Rabel. There are small peasant farmer organizations in the Hinche area, too. Why would they do more evil than good in Jean-Rabel only?

[Richardson] The problem is that it isn't that they could not do greater evil other places. Jean-Rabel offered an easier position. They went too fast.

[(Pierre-Louis)] But how do you explain this?

[Richardson] Because it is an area that the government never bothered with. You could do anything there. No matter what you did, no one would object, no authorities would appear, there was no one. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Concern on Leaders' Return

FL3004031688 Port-au-Prince Radio Antilles Internationales in French 1700 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Excerpts] [Words indistinct] two towns near Jean-Rabel are concerned about the return of peasant group leaders after many months in hiding.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Speaker] [Passage omitted] After that, the entire area was organizing so that there would never be another such massacre. There was total peace in the area. But now we are seeing many group leaders returning who went into hiding after the massacre. They have begun holding discreet little meetings as if they would like to start the same thing all over again, I mean another massacre. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] So you are telling me that certain group leaders have returned and are embarking on the same path again?

[Speaker] Well, personally, I (?am not from) that area, so I don't know if there are group leaders, but what we do know is that there are people in place, peasants. There are leaders among the peasants. We think it is these leaders, together with the people who were already in the groups, who have begun holding little meetings, very discreetly. [passage omitted]

There was an incident Tuesday. [passage omitted] A group leader was hiding in Port-de-Paix. He sent a man to get another (?group leader) and bring him to Port-de-Paix. When they arrived, I don't know what they must have said to him. He did not (?agree) with them, and they (?killed) him.

[Reporter] But weren't they in the same group?

[Speaker] Yes, they are two leaders...

[Reporter, interrupting] You told me they killed him. Are you sure about this?

[Speaker] Yes. This is not something I heard as a rumor. The guy said it himself.

[Reporter] The man himself said he killed him?

[Speaker] Yes, he said so himself.

[Reporter] And why would someone kill someone and then admit killing him?

[Speaker] He talked to the police. A man won't tell you yourself, but when he falls into the hands of the police he talks. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Correction to Report on Arrest of KID Member

The following correction pertains to the item entitled "Member of KID Arrested in Grand Goave," published in the 29 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 6, column two:

paragraph two: ...[Broadcast in progress]... (correcting subslug)

paragraph three, line one: ...[Excerpts] ...from Kompe Plim [alias of reporter Evans Paul], who informs us that one of their members was arrested this morning in Grand Goave. He will give us further details:

[Evans Paul] We just got... (supplying passage)

Trinidad and Tobago

Antigovernment Protests Coincide With Debate

FL3004143588 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] There were anti-government demonstrations yesterday in Trinidad and Tobago timed to coincide with the start of debate in parliament of a no-confidence motion in the government.

Opposition leader Patrick Manning, in kicking off the debate yesterday on the motion of no confidence in the prime minister, catalogued month-by-month the alleged errors of Mr A. N. R. Robinson since December of 1986.

No-Confidence Motion Fails

FL0205162088 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] The Trinidadian House of Representatives has reaffirmed their confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Ray Robinson.

In a vote on Friday, the law making body defeated a no-confidence motion that was set forth by the opposition party. The vote of no confidence was proposed because of the recent firing of four cabinet ministers and what was called poor economic performance in the nation. The Government of Trinidad has recently imposed austerity measures to fight inflation and unemployment.

Central Bank Limits Foreign Exchange Allocations

FL0205225088 Bridgetown CANA in English 2020 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, April 29, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's Central Bank announced on Thursday night it would be limiting foreign exchange allocations to garment manufacturers under the U.S. 807 Programme in a bid to save foreign exchange.

Restating the need to save on dwindling foreign exchange supplies, the bank also noted that manufacturers applying for foreign exchange would need to prove the realisation of foreign exchange. Foreign exchange of only up to 75 per cent of the value of the garment would be allowed, the bank said. Whereas many other businesses seeking foreign exchange were placed on new one-year allocation certificates at the start of 1988, Central Bank said applicants under the 807 Programme would only be allowed three month certificates.

The bank said the criteria for assessment would include the need to conserve present low levels of foreign exchange reserves, the need to realise net foreign exchange earnings from the guaranteed American market, and the need for transactions under the programme to take place within the contracted time period.

The bank said it would also consider the need to use up the excess capacity in the country's garment industry.

Applications would be judged on the applicant's realisation of net foreign exchange, the 75 per cent of the sales value limit, and based on previous foreign exchange earnings. Other considerations for judging applications would include proof of being an 807-approved concessionary and that the applicant is restricted to imports of cut material, accessories and fabric.

The 807 Programme allows local garment manufacturers listed under the programme to import already cut materials for assembly here and re-export to the United States free from U.S. tariffs.

The announcement came as the Central Bank attempts to protect its dwindling reserves linked to a drop in oil revenues and government is pushing the private sector to export in order to bring in more foreign exchange.

De la Madrid Writes Honecker on Nuclear Zone

LD021748 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1554 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Berlin, 2 May (ADN)—President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado of Mexico has sent a letter to Erich Honecker announcing his support for the holding of the international meeting for nuclear weapons free-zones in Berlin from 20 to 22 June.

De la Madrid thanked the SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany] Central Committee general secretary and GDR Council of State chairman for his government's invitation to the meeting. In this context he agreed unreservedly with Honecker's assessment that the current historical moment required extra steps to secure the path to general and complete disarmament.

"Specific agreements between the two superpowers, in the area of nuclear disarmament, on a significant reduction in their strategic potentials or on banning nuclear weapons tests, would be significant steps in this direction, just like the increase in nuclear weapons-free zones," the letter says.

De la Madrid points out that, as the main initiator of the first densely populated nuclear weapons-free zone, Mexico thinks the creation of further zones represents the most important way to general and complete disarmament under effective international control. As a large part of conventional and nuclear arms in the world is concentrated in Europe, Erich Honecker's initiative is of great significance for achieving the goal of liberating the world from nuclear weapons.

Mexico's president welcomed the idea of holding talks in various commissions on the issues to be dealt with at the conference. "In this context I would consider it interesting if one of the issues to be discussed were related to the cooperation or help that the Organization for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (OPANAL) might offer in creating or constituting a zone, and regarding the activities of similar bodies dealing with verifying compliance with the obligations arising from the status of nuclear weapons-free zones," the letter continues.

President de la Madrid informed the GDR Council of State chairman that the Mexican Government accepts the invitation to participate in the meeting and will take it up.

PRC Vice Premier Arrives, Talks to Press

FL0305160888 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0409 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Mexico City, 1 May (NOTIMEX)—Chinese Vice Premier Tian Jiyun asserted today that Mexico has made positive contributions to the defense of world and regional peace and has promoted the development of Third World countries. The visitor, who arrived here tonight, held a news conference at the Mexico City airport and said that during the administration of President Miguel de la Madrid Mexico has been engaged in national reactivation at home and an independent policy abroad.

Tian declared that in addition to its extraordinary culture, Mexico has a tradition of struggle for independence and national liberation both in its own country and throughout Latin America, which has earned it brilliant chapters in the history of mankind.

He commented on his 1-8 May visit, during which he will meet with President de la Madrid; Pedro Aspe, planning and budget secretary; and Fernando Hiriart, energy, mines, and parastatal industry secretary, as well as with leaders of the private sector. He also said that he will exchange Chinese products for oil and petrochemicals. He stated that there will be a notable increase in trade between the two countries because China is very interested in acquiring steel, wood, and cellulose from Mexico in exchange for textile industry machinery and fertilizers.

Moreover, he acknowledged that the trade balance favors Mexico while the trade deficit is very high for his country; for this reason China seeks to increase economic and technological cooperation. Lastly, he said that China highly appreciates Mexico's efforts to emerge from the crisis and to ensure world peace.

Meets With Petricioli

FL0305194288 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2356 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Mexico City, 2 May (NOTIMEX)—PRC Vice Premier Tian Jiyun met here today with Gustavo Petricioli, Mexico's secretary of finance and public credit. The two exchanged views and examined economic events and changes occurring in their two countries. Both officials stressed the positive results deriving from President Miguel de la Madrid's official visit to China in December 1986, which made it possible to set up a suitable structure for increased relations between the two nations.

Petricioli recalled that in the past 7 years he has had the opportunity to exchange views periodically with the Chinese finance minister and his principal aides. This has made it possible to keep each other up to date on economic developments in their respective countries.

Concluding the meeting, the two officials said they hoped to carry out their governments' political will to increase financial, technological, economic, and commercial exchanges.

Petricioli was accompanied by Francisco Suarez Davila, deputy secretary of finance, and Ambassador Daniel de la Pedraja, director general for Asia, Africa, and Oceania at the Foreign Secretariat. PRC Ambassador to Mexico Shi Chunlai was also present.

More on Meeting With Cuban Parliamentary Group

Joint Communique Issued

FL3004152588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0405 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo, Mexico, 22 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The parliamentary delegations of Mexico and Cuba said here today that safeguarding world peace must be the responsibility of all the earth's inhabitants. In a joint communique, the Mexican and Cuban legislators also came out in favor of world disarmament, the self-determination of peoples, nonintervention, and respect for the national sovereignty of all countries.

Likewise, they came out in favor of the peaceful solution of conflicts, development cooperation, and civilized diplomatic consensus in keeping with international law to successfully deal with the problems besetting the human race.

Concluding talks between the Mexican Congress and the National Assembly of the People's Government of Cuba, the deputies declared that it was of prime importance to emphasize that drug trafficking is not an isolated, specific act. They noted that this crime includes planting, harvesting, technological treatment, industrialization, transportation, weapons, corruption and violence, distribution, consumption, and financing of the whole process. In this respect, they stressed that the peasant producer, lab technician, and transporter are not the ones marketing the drug; this is done by multinational companies and no market can be developed if there are no consumers.

On another topic, the legislators cited the need to recommend that Mexico and Cuba establish a permanent commission for periodic meetings as soon as possible.

Both delegations highlighted the close historical ties existing between the two nations, which represent the high degree of development of commercial, economic, scientific, technological, and cultural exchanges. They pledged to fully contribute to this process.

Legislators Comment on Talks

FL3004161588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2305 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Mexico City, 25 Apr (NOTIMEX)—Luis Mendez Morejon, secretary of Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Government, has stated that Mexico and Cuba today paved the way for increased and intensified bilateral relations, following an interparliamentary meeting here. Both Mendez Morejon and Jorge Montufar Araujo, secretary of the Grand Committee of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies, said that the conferees had agreed to firm up a permanent exchange.

The two legislators were interviewed at the Mexico City International Airport shortly before the Cubans left for home. Montufar Araujo was at the airport to see them off.

Mendez Morejon said that Mexico is waging a big war on drug trafficking, earning the country international recognition. He asserted that Cuba has no drug trafficking problems despite its key location in the Gulf of Mexico and continual attempts by traffickers to traverse and cross the area with their boats and aircraft. However, he said, his country is investing considerable amounts on interdicting the traffic.

For his part, Montufar Araujo remarked that the joint communique rejects Mexico's decertification by the U.S. Senate in its fight against drugs. He said that the senators' unfair stand toward Mexico stems from electoral considerations. An independent country like Mexico does not require either certification or decertification for its domestic policy. Mexico is fighting drug trafficking with all its energy and will continue to do so, he stressed.

Lastly, both legislators described their meeting as successful for commercial, political, and cultural relations between the two countries.

Oil, Financial Agreement With Panama Denied

PA3004161988 Paris AFP in Spanish 2007 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Apr (AFP)—Mexican authorities today denied having committed themselves to increasing Panama's oil supply or to minting its currency to help the country overcome the problems it is experiencing because of a lack of cash.

Spokesmen for the Central Bank of Mexico and the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat, responsible for the printing of paper money and the minting of coins, have denied the statements made by Panamanian officials and carried by the local press.

The Mexican mint is the oldest in Latin America and it currently mints coins for some Caribbean countries.

Likewise, the Mexican Mines and Energy Secretariat told AFP that Mexico currently supplies Panama with 12,000 barrels of oil per day as agreed upon within the framework of the San Jose Pact signed in 1983.

The Mines and Energy Secretariat said that the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE) has asked Mexico to increase its daily quota of oil to Panama, but that no official answer has been given.

The Panamanian Embassy in Mexico City has refused to comment on the press versions published in this capital city, and it has not confirmed whether Panamanian authorities are currently negotiating with the Mexican authorities.

Hiriart: Policy on Sale of Oil Abroad Unchanged
FL0305025588 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0005 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 2 May (NOTIMEX) — The proposal asking for a 5 percent reduction of the global oil exports has not been rejected by OPEC, inasmuch as it will be considered once again in 2 months. This was said by Fernando Hiriart Balderrama, Mexican secretary of energy, mines, and parastatal industry.

Hiriart Balderrama, who, on behalf of seven independent oil producers, proposed to the OPEC an adjustment in oil sales, said this stand will be considered once more when the OPEC representatives meet again.

He made clear that in the meantime, Mexico will not change its platform of sales abroad, which amounts to 1.360 million barrels a day. This will also be the policy of other independent producers such as Angola, the PRC, Colombia, Egypt, Malaysia, and Oman. [passage omitted]

Authorities Uncover Important Drug Operation
PA0105222088 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0130 GMT 1 May 88

[Text] The Secretariat of National Defense and the Attorney General's Office reported tonight that a vast international drug-trafficking operation was uncovered in Heroica Caborca, Sonora. They reported that as part of the antidrug-trafficking campaign, Mexican Air Force helicopters transported regular Army troops to Caborca on 11 April, and a clash with drug traffickers took place, leaving four people dead.

Complementing this news with details that have been kept secret to allow for the proper investigation, both offices reported tonight that criminal activities were detected in the building where the clash occurred and in the rural area where the communication equipment used by the drug traffickers was destroyed.

Among other criminal activities, this is where the large-scale transportation and drug trade emanated from—drugs that originated in South America and were destined for the United States. An important criminal organization worked here with diverse connections with the affected countries.

The report by the National Defense and Attorney General's Office says the leader of this drug-trafficking network was the American Harold Allen Hughes, whose activities have been fully ascertained. This man used several aliases, such as Michael Lewis Cooper. He is one of the principal persons being investigated for drug trafficking in Mexico and the United States.

Hugues is linked to drug traffickers such as Rafael Caro Quintero, being tried in Mexico, and Rene Martin Verdugo, being tried in the United States. This man used for his operations a house where the clash occurred on 11 April in Caborca, Sonora.

El Salvador

San Salvador Urban Commandos Issue Communique

PA0405030488 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Attention please: Radio Venceremos has received a communique from our urban commandos in San Salvador.

Attention transportation workers and all our people:

The FMLN urban commandos have sabotaged electric power installations. This is an example of the current political and military campaign we are carrying out. We would also like to report to all our people that at 1930 on 2 May, by carrying out sabotage we were able to take control of the following places: Soyapango, [word indistinct], (Ciudad Merliet), Santa Tecla, and (Jardines de Cuscatlan), covering the entire metropolitan area.

This communique from the FMLN urban commandos also states that this is a warning to Duarte's Army because of all the repressive actions it has taken against workers. These repressive actions carried out by the Army will not go unpunished. Our forces are capable of responding to any action against the civilian population.

We would like to report to transportation workers, bus cooperatives, pick-ups and small bus owners that beginning at 0000 on 3 May, the transportation stoppage decreed by our general command will be in effect. It will be strictly enforced by our units in the metropolitan area. The urban commandos will be everywhere. Vehicles driven by those in violation of our orders will be destroyed. Despite the Army's surveillance, we will always be able to fool them, and we will act wherever there are cars moving.

This has been a communique issued by our urban commandos in San Salvador at the metropolitan front, where we send our revolutionary greetings.

FMLN Attacks Inflict 460 Army Casualties

PA0305141188 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The FMLN inflicted 460 casualties, including dead and wounded, on the enemy during April. These 460 casualties include Colonel Emilio Ponce, the military chief of the eastern area, and the chief of operations of the 3d Infantry Brigade, who were wounded when our forces carried out offensive operations in Morazan Department. The casualties include three lieutenants, one sublieutenant, two sergeants, three corporals, and one radio operator.

To these casualties we must add the two officers of an elite battalion, who were wounded when their helicopter crashed as they were trying to recover the body of a member of ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] from a small plane that crashed north of Chalatenango Department.

In April, we carried out acts of sabotage against four FENADESAL [National Railroad Company of El Salvador] trains, four mayor's offices, and five ANTEL [National Administration for Telecommunications] installations.

Radio Venceremos has determined that April came to an end while 60 percent of the country was without electricity because of a high number of acts of sabotage against power installations, including hundreds of electricity posts and transmission towers, as well as sabotage against 115,000-volt lines.

In the past month, the FMLN carried out six large operations in various parts of the national territory. In addition, the FMLN is wearing out the enemy through a war of attrition against the Paracentral Front in the Chalatenango and Morazan areas.

In April, five Air Force helicopters were damaged, as follows: One in the area of Campana Hill, San Vicente Department; another one in [words indistinct], Cabanas Department; the third one in [words indistinct], San Vicente Department; the fourth one in Los Planes, Cuscatlan Department; while the fifth one was damaged north of Chalatenango Department in an attempt to rescue a small ARENA plane.

Army Officer Describes FMLN Ambushes

PA0305131188 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 2 May 88

[Interview with Colonel Mauricio Guzman Aguilar, commander of the 5th Brigade, by unidentified reporter in San Vicente; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Guzman Aguilar] Yesterday we suffered two ambushes: One was carried out in Santa Clara Municipality, near the bridge on the Pan-American Highway—approximately 6 km from that bridge. Unfortunately, one soldier died and several others were wounded. They were taken by air to the San Miguel Regional Military Hospital. On the Coastal Highway, near the (Fenadetal) bridge, Tecoluca Municipality, there was an ambush yesterday at 1000 on a convoy that was traveling from San Salvador to (El Tempa), La Union. Unfortunately, the troops suffered 5 dead and several wounded. They were taken to San Salvador by the Air Force. The Engineers Battalion headquartered in Zacatecoluca gave these troops immediate support.

[Reporter] The guerrillas had no casualties, Colonel?

[Guzman Aguilar] Not yesterday. However, the day before yesterday they suffered casualties in San Sebastian Municipality, near El Paraiso. There were several clashes there. Two terrorists died and three were wounded. That afternoon we captured two suspicious looking individuals who later admitted that they were terrorists who had been operating in the San Pedro Hills area.

Honduras

Azcona Names New Government Minister

PA0305184288 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 May 88

[Danilo Antunez report]

[Excerpt] Enrique Ortez Colindres, former president of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration during Oswaldo Lopez Arellano's military government, and former Honduran ambassador to the OAS during Roberto Suazo Cordova's administration, yesterday was sworn in as new government minister by President Jose Azcona. The ceremony was held at the Oval Office of the Presidential Palace in the presence of Deputy Government Minister Romualdo Bueso Penalba and Hernan Sosa Valladares, senior officer of the ministry. [passage omitted]

Azcona Answers Critics of Government Policy

PA0305185488 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 May 88

[Statement by President Jose Azcona on 2 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] It is true that we have had some problems lately. However, the problems have been exaggerated. Those problems have been blown out of proportion, and many people have tried to take advantage of them for their own benefit.

We want to tell you that there have been no actions that could fill us with shame or anything like that. There is talk about everything. It is as if we had invented unemployment, for instance. There is talk of wrongdoing. I can say that not a single minister has been involved in any instance of wrongdoing thus far in my administration.

The ministers are attacked because they are members of a government team appointed by the president of the Republic at his discretion. Since the president cannot be removed, they are attacked because they can be removed through pressuring the president. [passage omitted]

We are taking concrete and effective steps in all areas to keep moving forward. Labor day was marked yesterday. As usual, the incumbent government had to be attacked; it had to be sniped at. We took this very calmly, with great ease. However, the actions that had been expected to disrupt order, the actions by the extremist sectors to take advantage of the occasion did not materialize, thank God. For this reason, today we feel happier, more at ease, and we have even more faith than we have had before in our small fatherland's future.

Nicaragua

Managua Suspends 3 Newscasts, 1 Radio Station

PA0405040588 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0310 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The communications media directorate has suspended for 8 days three newscasts and Radio Corporacion's broadcasts for airing false reports. The following newscasts have been suspended: Radio Catolica's Iglesia, Radio Noticia's El Pueblo, and Radio Mundial's El Nicaraguense. The suspension also is against Radio Corporacion's broadcasts.

According to the directorate's communique, the aforementioned newscasts had reported that Rafael Blandon Ubeda, a construction worker, had died as a result of torture inflicted by the Sandinist police—the report's aim was to discredit this state body. Of course, such reports were false, because Blandon Ubeda was presented to journalists this afternoon and he did not have a single injury.

President Ortega Receives GDR Aid Donation

LD022149 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1753 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Berlin, 2 May (ADN)—The GDR Government has presented Nicaragua with 10 W-50 trucks as a further solidarity gift. They were handed over in Managua today by Dr Dieter Albrecht, deputy chairman of the GDR State Planning Commission, in the presence of President Daniel Ortega.

Ortega said the gift was further proof of the GDR's active solidarity with the Nicaraguan people. He expressed thanks for the manifold support of the government and people of the friendly GDR and stressed, in particular, the great personal commitment of Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR Council of State. Dr Albrecht was leading a delegation to the second meeting of the GDR-Nicaragua Joint Commission for cooperation in the sphere of economic management and planning.

Contras Acknowledge Differences Over Bermudez

PA0305205588 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 1 May 88 pp 1, 5

[Text] Roberto Ferrey, secretary of the counterrevolutionary leadership, acknowledged at the end of the meetings with the government yesterday that it is true 28 contra leaders want to fire Enrique Bermudez, adding "but I do not know how one goes about this, as I only handle civilian matters."

The last appearance of the contra delegation at the Las Mercedes Hotel at about 1730 allowed the press to confirm the contra's internal divisions, the presence of the guardsmen representing Bermudez ("Mack" and "Quiche"), and their admittance that Commanders "Tono" and "Fernando" were removed because of internal differences.

The contras spoke most naturally of their sanctuary in Honduras, as if it were their permanent home. Ferrey said he has not been in Honduras for a long time, and for this reason he did not know what was happening among the contra military leaders, who "have a commanders' council."

The contra military leaders faced the press for the first time. Jose Benito Bravo, alias "Mack," speaking to local reporters first, said "Tono" was removed, although later he tried to backtrack by saying that "nothing is happening; you are the ones who are trying to divide us."

Jaime Morales Carazo denied policies outlined by Elliott Abrams were followed during the talks here, while the U.S. press confirmed that Reagan's Latin American adviser told the contra leadership not to sign anything in Managua.

Ferrey said he will telephone Victor Hugo Tinoco on Tuesday to see what day they can meet to discuss the topics to be covered at the next meeting.

The last news conference held by the contras for political observers at the Las Mercedes Hotel was an example of a tactic Abrams created: "that the contras try to show they are the Robin Hoods of Nicaragua" by trying to defend the civilian opposition, "the civilian opposition strikers," and anyone they can use as an excuse."

The Robin Hood disguise the entire contra leadership used during the last minutes of the news conference was briefly dropped when Alfredo Cesar and Calero said the only thing agreed on was "to meet again." Following this, the team split up among all the reporters to offer individual news conferences.

Miskito Osorno Coleman, alias "Blas," was led by the arm by Bosco Matamoros to the microphone to report a "communique" by the "Yatama" Indian organization that said the "official" media made up stories about the Honduran military's repression of the Indians, overlooking the fact that three Nicaraguan Miskitos had been killed by the Hondurans.

When Coleman and two other Miskitos stood together so Coleman could read their communique, practically no one remained at their side. The same thing happened with the reporters, who were attracted to the contra leadership or to Bermudez' guardsmen to see what they had to say.

In the uproar created by the contras, it can clearly be seen that Calero, Cesar, and, to a lesser degree, Aristides Sanchez are the stars of the U.S. press, while Pedro Chamorro and Azucena Ferrey mix with the crowd and disappear. Some correspondents comment that "they have nothing new to say."

While poor Miskitos Coleman and Wycliff Diego read their communique, practically no one stayed to listen to them. Neither did Bosco Matamoros take the trouble to see them off. The news conference simply ended without notice.

Pedro Chamorro repeated his philosophical baseball theory that "to score a run, one must first get to first base" when given a chance to explain what had happened during the 3 days.

The same disorderly way the contras have of explaining things prevented clarification of what for Adolfo Calero was a sort of central argument over the choice of a neutral organization to distribute aid, and the explanation remained inconclusive.

Calero presented a report by the Verification Commission that told of the 23 March developments in Sapoa.

The witnesses—according to Calero himself—had said it had been agreed that the contras would choose the neutral organization and that if the government objected, it would be the (Baena-Obando) Commission that would decide who would distribute the aid.

At no time did Calero explain if the Commission had decided on what Nicaragua proposed: that the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICR] distribute the humanitarian aid. This affair was used by Calero as the "center" of his speech, however. He said the government wanted to impose the ICR on the contras, as if the ICR were an obscure organization.

RN Officers Support Bermudez

PA0305225488 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 3 May 88 p 19

[Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, advertisement dated 29 April]

[Text] To the people of Nicaragua:

To Commander General Enrique Bermudez Varela:

We the regional commanders, task force commanders, company commanders, group commanders, and detachment commanders, hereby publicly state that we again reaffirm our loyalty, solidarity, and unconditional support for Enrique Bermudez Varela, general commander of the (Northern Front) RN Army. We deny malicious and biased speculations that have been made on the matter and which only benefit the Sandinists.

Likewise, we recognize the long years of struggle and sacrifice that Commander Bermudez Varela has devoted to the movement and cause of the liberation of our fatherland. We want to make it clear that the patriotic and nationalist stance of Commander Bermudez Varela must not be confused with a warmongering stance. Instead, his stance must be interpreted as a sincere and honest determination to prevent another Espino Negro incident [reference to 1927 Moncada-Stimson Pact]. Sandino did not accept it and set an example. We are following that example.

We endorse dialogue for a lasting peace. However, this must not be confused with an unconditional surrender that will betray the blood shed by the Nicaraguan people and their ideals of justice and freedom. Our view is that without true democratization there cannot be a definitive cease-fire.

We are also stating that today more than ever the unity and coherence among our (Northern Front) fighting forces is more monolithic than ever. Peace or war depends on the Sandinists.

In testimony of this document, we signed it on the 29th of April 1988.

[Signed] Regional commanders; task force commanders; company commanders; group commanders; and detachment commanders.

Miskito Group Signs Cease-Fire Agreement

PA0305183288 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Yatama, the counterrevolutionary organization headed by (Maximo Panting), has laid down its weapons to join the peace and autonomy process. The permanent cease-fire agreement between Yatama and the EPS was signed in Puerto Cabezas. The Yatama Indians reported that the repatriates and the rest of the population are victims of murder, rape, and kidnapping by the Honduran Army's 5th Infantry Company. Mercedes Roque reports from the North Atlantic area:

[Begin recording] The Yatama group and government authorities signed a permanent cease-fire agreement in Puerto Cabezas to stop all military action, bearing in mind that achieving peace is the hope of the Nicaraguan people and now the future of the Miskito family.

The agreement provides for joint operations between the EPS and the Indian self-defense militias in the Rio Coco border area. This means the total subordination of these Indian forces to the EPS' structures and cadres. The agreement also provides for the Indians' formal integration into the economic, political, and social sectors.

The Indian chiefs representing Yatama's armed forces are tired of the war. They are taking this step in view of the cruel murders of Miskito civilians by the Honduran Army's 5th Infantry Company and to tell the world about the situation they are enduring. EPS representatives in the region agreed to send a letter to Eric Sanchez, commander of the Honduran 5th Infantry Company, and are now waiting for a response to discuss the problems currently faced by the Miskito communities in the Coco River area, where the Honduran soldiers do not even allow them to use the river's waters. The soldiers do not recognize this beautiful river as the borderline between this country and the Honduran Mosquitia region. [end recording]

Government Grants Amnesty to Five Contras

PA0305150288 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 May 88

[Report by Maximo Rugama from Radio Liberacion in Esteli]

[Text] Five rebels have accepted amnesty in the past few days in Quilali as the result of the talks held between the EPS and the intermediate-level counterrevolutionary leaders. The rebels, taking advantage of the guarantees the government is offering them, decided to return to their homes to resume their life and do honest work.

The talks between the EPS and the intermediate-level counterrevolutionary leaders continue normally in Quilali. The talks are being held to reach a mutual agreement that would help stop the war through a final cease-fire.

Carlos Boutet, FSLN secretary in Quilali, reported that the talks between the EPS and the counterrevolutionaries continue in an atmosphere of mutual respect and involve the participation of Catholic Church officials and contra relatives.

Panama

Banking Commission Orders Reopening of Banks

PA0405004188 Panama City Telemetro Television Spanish 2324 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpts] National Banking Association President Edgardo Lasso Valdes today reported that the National Banking Commission has ordered the opening of banks effective 9 May.

[Begin recording] [Lasso] It was approved at a meeting of the National Banking Commission today, a meeting that has just ended; the banks' opening could be announced immediately. The banks will open effective Monday, 9 May.

The restrictions announced several weeks ago regarding the time deposit certificates and the savings and checking accounts—the percentages that had already been announced—remain in effect.

Therefore, all banks throughout the country will open their doors to the public on 9 May. We trust that as we gain experience on how the public reacts to these services, perhaps we will be able to lower the restrictions. However, this can only be done as we begin to gain experience on 9 May. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Does the National Banking Association agree with the conditions under which banks will begin operations on 9 May; in other words, partially?

[Lasso] To the Banking Association, the ideal thing would have been to open without any restrictions. We have discussed that very much at the association. I understand there has been some confusion all this time that the banks have been closed. It was thought that the Banking Association disagreed with the decisions made with the Banking Commission. However, I would like to use this opportunity to explain that there has never been such a situation. On the contrary, we called the commission's attention to certain technical matters we felt had to be covered prior to announcing the opening of banks.

However, we believe that although the conditions we will open under are not the best, we think the minimum conditions exist to open with these restrictions; we agree on that.

[Reporter] What time period will be given to banks to resume normal operations?

[Lasso] This lapse will be determined by the public reaction, the depositors. It depends on the trust they will have on the banks where they have their accounts. To the extent that we feel that this trust is being recovered, it is very feasible that the Banking Commission will discuss how this is working and then some changes may be made in the restrictions. We trust that these changes will then be favorable; in other words, changes decreasing the period for the retention of funds, etc. However, this will be determined by the people's reaction. Therefore, we hope they will continue to trust the banks, to the extent that we can normalize this situation. The Banking Commission will make official announcements to the people.

[Reporter] However, the clearing house problem is still unsolved.

[Lasso] At the same meeting we held today at the Banking Commission—I say we held because I am a member of the Banking Commission—Banco Nacional officials guaranteed that they can make any payment needed to cover checks drawn on Banco Nacional. They are making arrangements for the future so the normal operations of the clearing house will not stopped.

With this in mind, with this guarantee Banco Nacional officials have given, the commission today decided to announce the opening of banks effective 9 May. [end recording]

Crusade Leaders Protected by U.S. Envoys

PA0405033688 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 88

["Today in the World" commentary by Luis Manuel Martinez]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Some news agencies have reported that David Miller, the notorious commercial attache [as heard] of the U.S. Embassy and one of the key CIA men in Panama, is hiding Warland de Janon [Civic Crusade member] in his home. In addition, there are over 15 seditious individuals in refuge in the rooms of diplomatic officials, including those of [U.S. Ambassador] Arthur Davis and [U.S. Embassy DCM] John Maisto. The reports add that [labor leader] Isaac Rodriguez, the man responsible for the blackout on 25 February [as heard], sleeps calmly under the protection of John Maisto. Such are our patriots. He causes a blackout that entails heavy damage for the people and business, and then he hides under the protection of a foreign interventionist. [passage omitted]

AFP: Civic Crusade Reassessing Setbacks

PA0305224088 Paris AFP in Spanish 1747 GMT 3 May 88

[Report by Isidro Sanchez]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 3 May (AFP)—The opposition National Civic Crusade [CCN] will "reorganize" this week to "strike back" at the Panamanian Government, following several days of apparent inactivity. Spokesmen for the CCN, which is composed of businessmen, professionals, and conservative political parties, made that statement today.

Although many CCN leaders have left the country or were expelled by the authorities, those remaining in Panama will try to meet Tuesday or Wednesday "at a secret location" for "self-criticism" and to restart the struggle; in recent weeks, the opposition has suffered the most in the struggle.

According to a source who requested anonymity "for security reasons," several major CCN leaders are hiding in the houses of U.S. diplomats here in an attempt to escape from "official prosecution". [passage omitted]

The CCN has been ignored as a political entity by the local government and by the United States. Last week, the United States began direct "talks" to end the crisis that began 11 months ago.

Owing to this situation and the subsequent failure of an attempt to begin a dialogue with the government—which would be mediated by the Catholic Church—the CCN began to experience internal divisions and lose the strong rallying power it had in the first months of the crisis. [passage omitted]

On 6 May, there will be another anniversary of the 1984 elections, in which the military's candidate, Nicolas Ardito Barletta, defeated former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid by a a very slim margin. At that time, Arias Madrid claimed that "fraud" was perpetrated against his party, the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA].

The PPA, the majority opposition party, today reiterated a call to its followers to reject on 6 May "the most scandalous electoral fraud" ever.

PPA leader Carlos Morales said that on that day, the party followers will attempt to claim the victory achieved in 1984 for the octagenarian Arias Madrid and to demand that he be installed as the legitimate president.

Political analysts feel that there could be major PPA demonstrations on 6 May. Official circles grant this sector "importance and respect" because it adheres to the principle against foreign intervention in the country's affairs. [passage omitted]

Observers are not ruling out that in a likely negotiation for an agreement in the weeks ahead, the PPA could be considered in the establishment of a government of national unity. The Popular Unity Front (FUP), a labor and peasant organization, has proposed this government. For the past 3 weeks, FUP has been holding a "national dialogue" with leftist parties, the government, and Panamanian Defense Forces representatives.

Opposition Political Parties Discuss Situation

PA0405025788 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Representatives from opposition political parties and from parties that had been part of the government coalition have met to analyze the country's political situation. Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], gives us some details of this meeting.

[Begin recording] [Arias Calderon] We held a meeting with representatives from the Authentic Panamenist Party, Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], the PDC, the Republican Party, the Liberal Party led by [Vice President Roderick] Esquivel, and PALA [Labor Party], led by Carlos Eleta. We discussed the current situation, and we also discussed the ways in which we can work for a truly democratic solution to our country's crisis.

[Reporter] What do you mean when you refer to a democratic solution?

[Arias Calderon] That is all I can tell you for the time being. Nothing more than what I am telling you was discussed.

[Reporter] Will these conversations continue in greater depth?

[Arias Calderon] I hope we will have other conversations, specifically referring to the coordinated work that must be done at the Legislative Assembly. [end recording]

Church Criticizes Government, Media 'Attacks'

PA0405023288 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2311 GMT 3 May 88

[Communique issued by the Panamanian Catholic Church Bishops' Conference, CEP, on 2 May in Panama City; read by Msgr Oscar Brown, Panama City auxiliary bishop—recorded]

[Text] 1. When the CEP issues a communique, message, or pastoral letter, this is done under the authority and responsibility of each and every one of the bishops. Therefore, it is absolutely ill-natured to try to hold one or some of its members as the only ones responsible. In addition, in the case of the recent pastoral message dated 20 April, this message must not be interpreted differently from what has been said in other recent documents concerning our country's situation, its causes, and its possible solutions.

2. We accept constructive criticism from all those who, for one reason or another, do not agree with our proposals. However, we cannot tolerate that diatribe and insults be used against any of our members or against the church itself in order to misrepresent our points of view.

3. The personal or institutional attacks that we mention are only intended to undermine the work of the church to mediate in the current conflict.

4. Inasmuch as these attacks have proliferated in the communications media supporting the government, we thus understand that the government rejects the church's mediation. Therefore, both the CEP as well as the archbishop of Panama will remain outside this mediation until there is a change of attitude on the part of the media and, therefore, of the government itself.

Panama, 2 May 1988

New Tax Collection System for Oil Companies

PA0405041588 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] With the establishment of five collection offices, the General Revenue Directorate of the Finance and Treasury Ministry today began a new system for settling accounts for, paying, and setting the payment dates of taxes on various types of petroleum byproducts. Victor Levy, director general of revenue, verified the implementation of this system at the Petroleos Delta company, and said this is a creative measure by the state as a result of the country's crisis. Commenting on the new collection method, Victor Levy said:

[Begin Levy recording] Following the president's orders, a new system has been established for settling accounts for, paying, and setting the payment dates of taxes on various types of petroleum byproducts. This new system does not entail any increases for the consumer or the concessionaire. We believe it will be in the best interests of the nation. Right now, I am preparing to make the first inspections where the measure has been implemented—the places where the measure has been implemented—and verify that everything is being done according to the General Revenue Directorate's plans.

Five new collection offices were set up. We are going to inspect two or three because we are running short of time in view of the many responsibilities we have. We will go to the offices at Petroleos Delta, Petrolera Nacional, and probably, the Shell company. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Fernando Romero, manager of Petroleos Delta, commented on the new procedure for paying taxes on petroleum by-products and said the following:

[Begin recording] [Romero] The new method being implemented as of today by the General Revenue Directorate allows for faster payment of those taxes to the state and thus expedites the collection of taxes that were being made by check once a month.

[Reporter] Does this mean that payments to the central government will now be in cash?

[Romero] Basically, they will be in cash, although the General Revenue Directorate will also allow us to pay a certain percentage in state checks.

[Reporter] What guidance has Petroleos Delta received on this new operation that is being implemented?

[Romero] Basically, as I said before, the government wants to expedite the way in which these taxes are being paid. We have here an official from the General Revenue Directorate who is coordinating the work, and as I said, the idea is to collect those taxes on a daily basis. [end recording]

In addition to facilitating the government's daily collection of gasoline taxes, this will prevent Panamanian funds administered by U.S. petroleum companies from being deposited in Federal [Reserve] accounts, as was ordered by the Reagan administration.

Briefs

News Director Appointed

Carlos Duque Jaen, chairman of the Board of Directors of Televisora Nacional, announced on 3 May the appointment of Julio Ortega as director general of news of this enterprise. Ortega, an experienced journalist, has been editor of several newspapers, chief of information of state enterprises, and press secretary of the Presidency of the Republic. [Summary] [*PA0405030188 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 May 88*]

Argentina

Ministry Asserts War Contingency Plan Secrecy

PY031803 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2132 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 2 May (NA)—The Defense Ministry reaffirmed today that "the military strategic planning at the national level is based on a war contingency alternative, which all nations must assume for the defense of the national interests and community." The Defense Ministry thus replied to newspaper commentaries in which the assumption was made that war contingency plans do not exist just because President Raul Alfonsin did not mention them in his message to Congress.

In a communique released today, the Defense Ministry contends that "regarding reports based on a dispatch from DYN that the national government does not have war contingency plans, this ministry wants to make it clear that such an interpretation is false and that the presidential message to Congress made no mention of that topic."

The ministry denial acquired more impact this morning when some morning newspapers published big headlines on President Alfonsin's failure to mention war contingency alternatives during his message at the opening of Congress.

In its communique, the Defense Ministry added that the war contingency alternatives "are not made public because they are confidential."

A military source today said: "To say that there are no war contingency alternatives, just because they are not usually commented on, is to absurdly interpret the facts."

The source added: "It is up to the Joint General Staff, for example, to analyze the various war contingency alternatives. Besides, it there were no war contingency alternatives, there would be no reason for the existence of the Armed Forces."

The source also commented" "For obvious reasons of security and state secrecy, all hypotheses related to war contingency alternatives with other states or foreign countries must be kept strictly confidential. It should not occur to anyone that the president would publicly comment on these alternatives."

The source concluded by saying: "If the Defense Ministry document is read carefully, it will be understood that the South Atlantic is considered a strategic tension zone."

The paragraph mentioned by the source reads as follows: "The general directorate of the defense policy, using a specific instrument of the ministry, has analyzed the development of its capacity to assist, forecast, and diagnose events occurring in 'strategic tension zones'—particularly in the South Atlantic—and the determination of national defense policies and strategies in order to grant the Defense Ministry the adequate freedom of action to ensure the necessary elements for it to act on its own initiative."

Alfonsin Shortens PRC Stay as Austerity Measure

PY031929 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1800 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 May (DYN)—President Raul Alfonsin personally began his policy of austerity in government expenditures today when he unexpectedly decided to reduce his trip to the PRC to only 3 days, and cancel the trip he planned to make to Italy to receive an honorary title.

Diplomatic sources revealed that notification of the shortening of Alfonsin's trip, which eliminates other stopovers in the PRC, was already officially relayed by the Argentine Foreign Ministry to the PRC ambassador in Argentina.

Alfonsin had planned to start his trip on 10 May and conclude it on 22 May.

Alfonsin was also planning to make a transpolar flight and to meet with the New Zealand prime minister.

From New Zealand he planned to fly to Guam and then to Beijing. He planned to stay in the PRC for 5 days, also visiting Canton and Shanghai.

From the PRC, after stopping in Singapore and Bahrain, President Alfonsin was planning to visit Bologna to receive an award, and on the return trip visit Cape Verde.

From this schedule Alfonsin decided to cut everything except the trip to China and to reduce his stay to the official activities planned by Beijing.

The sources also revealed that the presidential trip will begin on 11 May, making technical stops in Acapulco, Honolulu, and Osaka, before arriving in Beijing, and that the stops will not be long.

The return trip will be via the same route, which takes about 24 hours, arriving at the Ezeiza International Airport at 0600 on 17 May.

Briefs

Armed Forces Salaries Increased

Buenos Aires, 2 May (NA)—The Argentine Executive Branch today decreed that the salaries of the Armed Forces personnel be increased retroactively from 1 March. Decree 486, which was published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE,

has established a 10 percent increase for military personnel, and 11 percent for public administration personnel. [Summary] [*PY021959 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1510 GMT 2 May 88*]

Bolivia

ADN Suspends Deputy, Officer in Drug Case

PY300158 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Report from Congress]

[Text] This is information of a political nature. A few minutes ago the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] delivered a communique through its political committee. The communique says:

1. Regarding the video tape, shown in the honorable Congress and to the media on 27 April, that shows the alleged links of ADN members to illegal activities related to drug trafficking, today the ADN received a letter from honorable Deputy Alfredo Arce Carpio addressed to the ADN National Political Committee requesting the intervention of the party discipline council to apply the appropriate measures in this case.

2. In light of the seriousness of this event, and while the investigation is conducted, the ADN, in compliance with its regulations, has decided to suspend Deputy Alfredo Arce Carpio from all his activities and party positions.

3. General Mario Vargas Salinas, retired, who recently joined the party, has, in the wake of the event involving the video cassette, been separated from the ADN in accordance with party regulations.

The communique was signed by Guillermo Fortun Suarez and Antonio Ormachea, members of the ADN National Political Committee.

Congress Seeks Arrests

PY300356 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2330 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] La Paz, 29 Apr (EFE)—The Bolivian Chamber of Deputies has asked for the arrest of a politician, a businessman, and a retired general who are seen together with "cocaine king" Roberto Suarez in a videotape shown in Congress and broadcast by several national television channels.

The decision was taken last night during a confidential session and released only today. Congressional spokesmen have reported that the legislators asked the Committee for Constitution, Justice, and Judicial Police to take, within 24 hours, the steps necessary to obtain the arrest of ADN Deputy Alfredo Arce Carpio; General Mario Vargas Salinas, retired; and businessman Jorge Alvestegui, who were shown entering the residence of Roberto Suarez and talking to him.

Suarez has been sought since 1971 by INTERPOL, the DEA, and the Bolivian antidrug agencies for manufacturing and trafficking in drugs.

The videotape showing these three people was delivered to Freddy Vargas, the chairman of the congressional justice committee, by Corvette Captain Jaime Paredes Sempertegui, who was tried by the Bolivian Navy for his reports of corruption and dealings with drug traffickers by members of the police forces and the Armed Forces.

Carpio, Alvestegui, and Salinas—who is also a member of the ADN, a party led by General Hugo Banzer Suarez— acknowledged having met Roberto Suarez. However, they publicly explained that their meetings with the "cocaine king" had nothing to do with drug trafficking.

Carpio claimed that his meeting with Suarez in 1983 "was prompted by journalistic interest," although "I did not publish any report because I did not find anything about Roberto Suarez' personality that was interesting enough to sell."

Alvestegui, who up until recently was a high-ranking executive of a private television channel, provided a similar explanation. He claimed that he met Suarez at the request of the Spanish publishing group "Grupo Z" and the Brazilian enterprise "Globo."

Vargas Salinas, former head of the Armed Forces intelligence department and a minister under Banzer's administration, said that his meetings with Suarez in 1983 and 1985 were motivated by his desire to confirm whether the "cocaine king" had a "sophisticated army with vertical take-off planes and Libyan bodyguards."

After viewing the videotape—which President Paz Estenssoro also saw—the Bolivian Congress decided that "the matter is not a mere internal ADN matter, but has to do with an activity that is corroding the social, economic, and political structure of the entire country."

Potosi Students, Professors Join Hunger Strike

PY031354 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpts] According to a report by the Public Relations Department of the San Andres Mayor University in Potosi, 4,700 students, professors, and administrative personnel of the Bolivian university have joined the hunger strike being staged throughout the country.

[Begin Public Relations Department representative recording] The university strike is increasing. By yesterday, the 8th day of the strike, 4,706 members of the university community had joined the hunger strike. [passage omitted]

It is expected that tomorrow this number will increase still further. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney Opens Symposium on Foreign Debt

PY021837 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] At the Planalto Palace this morning President Jose Sarney opened a foreign debt symposium, to which forty-five representatives of several countries have been invited.

The president, who delivered the opening speech, voiced concern about the population growth, mainly in Third World countries. The symposium, which will end on Friday, will seek to devise practical solutions to the foreign debt problem. The symposium is being sponsored by the Third World Foundation [Fundacao Terceiro Mundo], which has been created to help underdeveloped countries.

Soviet Commercial Bureau Head Views Trade Ties

PY030121 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 2 May 88 p 14

[Interview with new Soviet Commercial Bureau head Valeri Voinov by O GLOBO correspondent Carlos Tavares de Oliveira in Rio de Janeiro; date not given]

[Text] Oliveira: What effect does "perestroyka" have on Soviet foreign trade?

Voinov: I will try my best to touch upon the most important points. It is difficult in a brief interview to talk about all aspects of the reform being introduced in the area of foreign trade relations in the Soviet Union. Reform in this area, as with "perestroyka" in general, comtemplates a medium- and long-term process of renewal of society. This process is intended to shape socialism in the most up to date form, in line with the demands of the technological and scientific revolution and the intellectual progress of Soviet society. This is a necessary reform; it is a reform that our reality demands.

Oliveira: What, then, are the changes made by "perestroyka"?

Voinov: A fundamental reform in the structure of foreign trade has recently been made. Taking the old Foreign Trade Ministry and the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations as a basis, a new Economic Foreign Relations Ministry was created. It will henceforth coordinate national policy in this area. The ministerial structure was simplified, personnel were reduced, and things that were superfluous were eliminated.

Oliveira: How did the reform affect the Soviet Union's foreign economic relations?

Voinov: The decree-law approved in January 1987 providing for the creation of mixed enterprises, with the participation of Soviet entities and enterprises from capitalist countries or developing countries in the Soviet Union, elicited great interest among all types of foreign enterprises. This new legislation aims at promoting, in stable and mutually advantageous conditions, cooperation of an economic, commercial, technological, and scientific nature.

Oliveira: How will that restructuring affect Brazilian-Soviet trade?

Voinov: Last year, Soviet-Brazilian trade amounted to nearly $500 million (68 billion cruzados). The Soviet Union exported goods worth $75 million (10.2 billion cruzados), while Brazil exported goods worth $425 million (55.6 billion cruzados). I believe that this very low volume of trade does not represent the true potential of our economies, because the share or participation of each country in the trade volume of the other is less than 1 percent.

Oliveira: How could we invigorate our trade? What would be the form and methods to develop our cooperation?

Voinov: The answer can be found in the agreement for economic, commercial, scientific, and technological cooperation signed between the Soviet Union and Brazil on 30 September 1987. This agreement provides for a broad utilization of new and traditional forms of cooperation. It makes possible the creation of mixed enterprises in each country, as well as industrial integration, joint participation in large industrial projects in third countries, advanced scientific cooperation, and sale of licenses, patents, expertise, etc.

Oliveira: We know that two joint ventures are under way with the Cacique and Abrasucos companies of Sao Paulo. One is to sell vodka bottled in Brazil, and the other is to sell orange juice. This is being done under the new "perestroyka" legislation, which allows for 51 percent and 49 percent Soviet and Brazilian participation, respectively. Is there any possibility for similar association with enterprises of Rio de Janeiro?

Voinov: I can tell you that we are already negotiating with some enterprises in Rio de Janeiro concerning this issue. I want to take this opportunity to say that we are ready to examine proposals from Brazilian firms that might be interested in creating joint enterprises, either in the Soviet Union or Brazil.

Soviet Union Offers Medical, Agricultural Aid

PY290359 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Apr 88 p A-2

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—The Soviet Union is prepared to sell medical and agricultural equipment, worth about $1 million (about 133 million cruzados), to Brazil. This information was supplied yesterday by engineer Nikolay Tchekan, the Soviet trade representative to Brazil, during the 2d general congress on nuclear energy—which is scheduled to end tomorrow—being held at the Gloria Hotel, Gloria district, in southern Rio de Janeiro. According to Tchekan, the equipment is designed to preserve grain and foodstuffs by using Gamma radiation.

Physicist Georgy Dmitriyevich Selidovkin, the chief of the bone marrow transplant and intensive care department of the 6th hospital of the Soviet Health Ministry in Moscow (the Soviet capital), who also participated in the 2d general congress on nuclear energy, has said that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visited Brazil in late 1987 to offer this equipment, an offer that includes construction.

According to Tchekan and Selidovkin, the investments currently made in the Soviet Union include the construction of new robots and the upgrading of current robots to use them in emergency cases such as the Chernobyl accident (in the Soviet Union, which killed 29 people 2 years ago), and the accident involving a Cesium-137 tube in Goiania (the capital of Goias State, in which four people were killed 7 months ago).

Civil Servants' Strike 'Partially Observed'

PY040058 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpts] The strike called by Federal Government employees and workers of state-owned enterprises was partially observed nationwide. The strike leaders claim that the strike was observed by 70 percent of their fellow workers.

The Federal Government said that an evaluation of the strike will be made tomorrow and confirmed that strikers will be dismissed. [passage omitted]

The Planalto refinery, which is located in Paulinia—Sao Paulo—and which is the largest one in the country, was not affected by the strike. Workers of the Santos Port Administration and the Cubanato refinery observed the strike. [passage omitted]

Petrobras has reported in Rio de Janeiro that only 1 of its 10 refineries had a decline in production today: the Getulio Vargas refinery in Parana State. The strike has not affected the production and transportation of oil.

The strike, which was called to protest the 2-month suspension of the adjustment of salaries by the price reference unit, caused mobilizations in Brasilia, but employees of ministries reported to work. [passage omitted]

More on Possible Dismissals

PY030117 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] State-run enterprise workers held assemblies around the country today to decide on their participation in the 48-hour strike scheduled for tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. Some of these assemblies approved joining the strike. Public servants and state-run enterprise workers are protesting against the suspension of salary readjustment by the price reference unit.

In Rio de Janeiro, Communications Minister Antorio Carlos Magalhaes revealed the attitude the government will adopt toward the strike.

[Begin recording] [Magalhaes] I am against the strike, and we will take action. We will punish the strikers.

[Reporter] Are dismissals being considered?

[Magalhaes] Look, I obviously don't believe the strike will catch on and so I cannot anticipate dismissals. But dismissals are possible. [end recording]

The government has authorized state-run enterprises to dismiss workers who join the strike tomorrow and in the future. The government's decision was announced by journalist Carlos Henrique Santos, Planalto Palace spokesman. Dismissed workers can automatically be replaced without violating the decree forbidding new hirings in public service.

Federal Police Raid Cocaine Labs, Make Arrests

PY040237 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] A 4-month federal police campaign in Mato Grosso do Sul has begun to yield results: In less than 2 days, authorities seized 140 kg of pure cocaine worth more than 220 million cruzados and arrested 40 people.

On the 1st day, federal agents found 60 kg of cocaine and arrested more than 30 people. Police also found a large amount of ammunition and foreign money. One of the traffickers' leaders, ranch owner Antonio Alves Santos Neto, was among those arrested.

This morning the operation continued: At a ranch in Terenos, police arrested three Bolivians engaged in refining the drug. Thirty kilometers further down, Federal Police found a deserted ranch and seized 80 kg of cocaine being prepared for consumption. In nearby bushes police found bottles and cans of ether. Federal police believe this gang was working for the Medellin Cartel, the lords of Colombian cocaine.

[Begin Roberto Alves, Mato Grosso Federal Police superintendant, recording] We knew the Medellin Cartel was establishing bases in Brazil, Bolivia, and Paraguay. Two of the Brazilian States where the cartel has decided to move are Mato Grosso and Mato Grosso do Sul. [end recording]

The operation did not end there. Federal Police are currently investigating Campo Grande chemical product distributers involved in the supply of ether and acetone to the gang. This afternoon police closed two of the firms in that area.

Chile

PDC Leader Aylwin on Talks With Shultz

PY040133 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpts] The United States is very interested in defending the cleanliness of a democratic process that will allow the Chilean people to decide their own destiny.

This remark was made by Patricio Aylwin, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], after meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The meeting lasted for 2 hours, during which the Chilean political reality and human rights situation were evaluated.

Shultz reiterated to us the traditional position of the U.S. Government of defending the cleanliness of a democratic process that will allow the Chilean people to decide their own destiny, Aylwin stated.

Aylwin then explained that the opposition does not want any type of foreign interference in Chile. [passage omitted]

After indicating that the PDC is very much in agreement with the U.S. position, Aylwin said his party is not seeking any type of interference, and that what is required is solidarity to obtain complete respect for the principle of self-determination of nations.

The secretary of state expressed the U.S. Government's interest in a free process to allow the Chilean people to express themselves without any type of coercion, Aylwin stated.

No matter who the candidate may be, we are struggling for a peaceful and ordered democratization process, which presupposes the need for a dialogue between civilians and the military as soon as the no-vote has won, Aylwin explained.

Chilean Air Force Chief Fernando Matthei will meet with George Shultz on 5 May.

Post-Beagle Agreement Talks Held With Argentina

PY040143 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpt] Alberto Ferrari, Latin American affairs under secretary at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, has said the first consultative meeting between the Chilean and Argentine delegations was excellent and fruitful. The two delegations met this Tuesday at the Foreign Ministry under the provisions of the Peace and Friendship Treaty signed between the two countries to end their dispute over the Beagle Channel. This meeting was scheduled during the visit that Deputy Foreign Minister General Ernesto Videla made to Buenos Aires in March.

After the meeting, which was presided over by Gen Videla, Under Secretary Ferrari said he was very satisfied with the talks.

[Begin Ferrari recording] We had a very fruitful dialogue, and I believe the history of these past 10 years of relations between our countries demonstrates that we are indeed guided by the interests of our nations and peoples. We experienced some very dramatic moments in our bilateral relations, but we were able to sign a peace and friendship treaty to unite us. I cannot conceive of Argentina and Chile turning their backs on each other. They have to share a common destiny because of their history, culture, and common values. So we are quite optimistic about the future of these relations. [end recording]

The Argentine diplomat said that another bilateral commission will meet in Buenos Aires next month to discuss specific topics on integration as provided for under the Peace and Friendship Treaty. [passage omitted]

Prosecutor Approves Bail

PY040241 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2332 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpts] Santiago, 3 May (EFE)—Military Prosecutor Luis Acevedo has granted the release on bail of Jose Sanfuentes, a leader of the Chilean Communist Party. This decision must be confirmed by the Military Court of Santiago.

Sanfuentes has been under arrest for 1 week in a Santiago prison, accused of slandering the Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

The Military Court of Santiago must decide today whether to confirm the release of the Chilean Communist leader.

Prosecutor Indicts Communist Party Member

PY031836 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
27 Apr 88 p C-9

[Text] Prosecutor Luis Acevedo has indicted Communist Party leader Jose Sanfuentes in accordance with Article 284 of the Military Code of Justice for allegedly offending the Armed Forces.

Sanfuentes was notified at 1500 yesterday and taken to the Santiago prison.

Lawyer Pamela Pereira who is defending Sanfuentes told a reporter of this newspaper that she is going to submit two notes to the military prosecutor's office requesting Sanfuentes' release on bail, and that the indictment be annulled.

The charges against Sanfuentes are based on the remarks he made on 11 April to EL MERCURIO when he referred to the case of two youths arrested during a ceremony headed by Pope John Paul II in O'Higgins Park.

La Serena FPMR Branch Chief Arrested

PY040045 Santiago LA SEGUNDA in Spanish
27 Apr 88 p 21

[Text] Fernando Alejandro Aravena Dominguez, head of the La Serena regional branch of the self-styled "Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front" [FPMR], has been arrested. The findings of an investigation that is under way indicate that Aravena masterminded "the bed of explosives" that was discovered in late February at one end of the runway of the La Serena airstrip.

Aravena Dominguez and Marcos Ilich Riquelme Garcia were arrested by security personnel during Holy Week as they were carrying explosives on board an interprovincial bus in the city of Chillan. They were both placed at the disposal of the military prosecutor of Chillan on charges of transporting and possessing explosives and of violating Article 8 of the arms control law. Authoritative sources have told LA SEGUNDA that the explosives were brought from Ovalle through Santiago to Chillan.

The investigations have reportedly shown that Aravena "masterminded" the unsuccessful attack on the La Serena airstrip. He may be indicted for this crime.

The target of the unsuccessful February attack, as was officially reported at that time, was the president of the Republic, who had canceled his trip to La Serena. "I was the target of the attack," President Pinochet said, commenting on the discovery of explosives at the La Serena airstrip.

A woman who is regarded as Riquelme Garcia's girl friend was also arrested at her home in Santiago. She had a gun and other items that she said belonged to Riquelme Garcia.

Lieutenant Colonel Lorenzo Andrade, the second military prosecutor, is hearing this case, which is numbered 614-88. The prosecutor ordered Aravena and Riquelme be placed at his disposal, and the files used in the indictment in La Serena of Jorge Gonzalez Velez be sent to him.

Gonzalez Velez gave a physical description of Aravena that was quite accurate, especially mentioning Aravena's limping gait.

Gonzalez Velez positively identified Aravena during a police lineup in Santiago.

Political Party Office in Iquique Attacked

PY031833 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
27 Apr 88 p C-6

[Text] Iquique—Three unidentified individuals attacked the offices of the Party for Democracy, PPD, about noon yesterday. Two women were in the office at that time. The individuals politely asked for details on joining the party but then began to insult the two women, rip down party propaganda from the walls, and destroy the furniture. The individuals then escaped taking an empty note book which they thought was a party register.

APSI Assistant Director Released on Bail

PY032321 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish
28 Apr 88 p C-8

[Text] After 12 days of preventive detention, APSI Assistant Director Sergio Marras yesterday afternoon walked out of the Capuchinos jailhouse. A military court on 26 April decided unanimously to order Marras' release on bail. Marras has been indicted for allegedly offending the Armed Forces.

First Military Court Prosecutor Enrique Olivares heads the investigation of the charges that followed an editorial written by Marras on the Armando Fernandez Larios case published in February 1987. Attorney for the defense Pamela Pereira said she will ask the military court to acquit Marras.

Colombia

Guerrillas Reportedly Kidnap FRG Honorary Consul

PA0305200288 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] In what seems to be a unified guerrilla plan against consular officials in Colombia, (Siegfred Markit), FRG honorary consul in Bucaramanga, was kidnapped today. There were also attempts to kidnap consuls in Cali and Medellin. A similar thing happened this morning when an attempt was made to kidnap Panama's consul in Cartagena. The authorities thwarted this kidnapping.

More on Kidnapping

LD0305231088 Hamburg DPA in German 2236 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Bogota (DPA)—Hellmut Lucker, the German honorary consul in the Colombian town of Medellin, was kidnapped on Tuesday. Unidentified persons announced in telephone calls to Colombian newspapers that the pro-Cuban underground group National Liberation Army (ELN) had seized the German.

According to the callers, Lucker is to convey a message from the rebels to the government of Colombian President Virgilio Barco in which they condemn the "dirty war" by the Armed Forces against the underground movements. The honorary consul's life was not in danger; he would soon be released, it was said.

According to radio reports, Lucker was kidnapped after leaving his office in the city center to keep an appointment with as-yet-unidentified persons. The town of Medellin, around 250 km northwest of Bogota, is regarded as a focus for illegal drug trafficking in Colombia.

It was reported at the same time that The Netherlands honorary consul, Sigilfred Marquez [name as received] has been kidnapped in the town of Bacaramanga in northeastern Colombia by a suspected ELN commando. Three Colombian journalists also were kidnapped in that town by the rebels. An attempt by several armed men to kidnap a French consul in the town of Cali in southwestern Colombia failed, however. A policeman was shot dead and another was injured while the culprits got away.

French Honorary Vice Consul 'Escapes Death'

LD0305224188 Paris Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The French honorary vice consul in Colombia has narrowly escaped death. Annette Exigeart was caught in the middle of a shooting incident between two unidentified men who had stopped her car and the police. One of the policemen was wounded. It is not known whether this incident is connected to the abduction of a West German diplomat in Northeast Colombia.

'High Toll' of Victims in Jan-Apr Violence

PA0205010088 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Apr 88

[All figures as heard]

[Excerpts] The massacres of peasants, ambushes by guerrilla groups, and clashes between the Armed Forces and the subversives have left a high toll of victims during the first 4 months of 1988. Let us look at the figures:

A total of 189 servicemen have been killed in fights with the guerrillas thus far this year. Those killed during the first 4 months of 1988 include 5 officers, 11 noncommissioned officers, 44 soldiers, and 1 civilian member of the Colombian Army; 2 Navy noncommissioned officers; 6 police officers, 6 police noncommissioned officers, and 63 police operatives; and 1 Administrative Department of Security detective.

In the actions, 189 subversives have been killed and 330 have been arrested. There have been 12 attacks on towns and 5 attempts to raid towns. In addition, there have been 63 bank robberies in small towns, and 158 terrorist acts have been committed. A total of 89 Colombians have died as a result of attacks on peasants and union leaders. The situation in Bogota is also worrisome, because the shootings and traffic accidents have increased the mortality rate in Colombia. [passage omitted] A total of 1,631 people have died in Bogota thus far this year.

ELN Damages Cano Limon-Covena Pipeline

PA3004171888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] The ELN [Army of National Liberation] today broke its truce regarding the Cano Limon-Covena oil pipeline today when it tried to damage the pipeline. During the first attack, the ELN only caused a small rupture in the pipeline; several ruptures and leaks were reported following the second attack. Fortunately, ECOPETROL [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise] workers were able to repair the damage immediately. The pipeline is fully operational at this time.

Police Discover Modern Laboratory, Drugs

PA0305231188 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 May 88

[Report by Maria Eugenia Sierra]

[Excerpts] Combined Antioquia and Cundinamarca police forces dealt another blow against the drug-trafficking mafia a few hours ago. A new cocaine-processing complex was found at La Danta farm, located on the border between Puerto Triunfo and Sonson, Middle Magdalena region, Antioquia Department. The operation was coordinated at Palanquero Air Force Base in La Dorada. [passage omitted]

The modern cocaine-processing complex included chemical laboratory equipment and a large cement mixer where the cocaine was mixed with water and cement. The police found 600 light bulbs and 20 microwave ovens in the drying room. The packing and drying process was supervised from an office equipped with a modern national and international radio communication center.

The farm also had sleeping quarters with 40 bunks, mattresses, fans, lockers, and bathrooms. There was also a central warehouse filled with filter paper, electric appliances, oil, fuel, detergents, gourds, and washing equipment. Another warehouse had approximately 250 drums with oil, ether, and acetone. The kitchens had food to feed approximately 100 persons for 1 month; several large refrigerators were full of meat, canned food, and soft drinks. [passage omitted]

'Frightened' Reporters Suspend Newscasts in Ocana

PA0305222888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Ocana reporters have not been spared from death threats from the self-styled Society of Friends of Ocana either. A few months ago, this group published a list of 60 local people who would be murdered. Frightened reporters suspended their news broadcasts in Ocana yesterday.

Peru

EFE: Shining Path Members Stage Demonstration

PY031846 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2021 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Lima, 2 May (EFE)—The Maoist terrorist group Shining Path has appeared in public for the first time in an open challenge to President Alan Garcia's administration. This event has apparently surprised even the police.

Approximately 250 activists and supporters of the Shining Path, which for 8 years has been carrying out an armed struggle against the Peruvian democratic government, marched openly and without any police harassment to within 500 meters of Government House, an area which is under the strictest security in Peru.

Shining Path members, some of them wearing masks, exploded at least seven bombs, which caused panic and material demage in downtown Lima where Government House, most of the ministries, the parliament, and the most important public buildings are located. This amazing demonstration, staged for the first time by the Shining Path in support of the armed struggle and the popular resistance to the Peruvian administration, lasted about 2 hours.

The police restricted themselves to maintaining surveillance from a helicopter and took action only when hundreds of Shining Path red flags were displayed on the buildings and when the bombs went off.

According to a police source, more than 100 people were arrested after the incidents, but only three of them were charged with terrorists attacks: two Peruvian students and a German citizen called Thomas Alfred Bruner, 26.

The unexpected demonstration has amazed the people and caught by surprise police forces that usually keep downtown Lima under strict control.

It appears that the Peruvian Communist Party-Shining Path is launching a political campaign in addition to its military struggle which began in 1980.

Shining Path documents, apparently issued at a congress held in August 1987, have revealed that the Shining Path has launched a new method to infiltrate unions and popular organizations.

The Shining Path has carried out only military-style attacks that during 8 years have claimed 10,000 lives according to the goverment; according to the Shining Path, almost 15,000 deaths and damage to property totaling $5.5 billion.

In July 1987, a small group of Shining Path members held a public ceremony at the San Marcos University in Lima, which is regarded as one of the Shining Path's bastions, to mark the 1st anniversary of the killing of 250 Shining Path members in 3 Lima prisons.

In mid-March 1987, Shining Path activists demonstrated and set off bombs during a meeting staged by the CGTP [General Confederation of Peruvian Workers], which is Peru's most powerful union organization.

These two occasions have been the only public appearances of the Shining Path whose members remain mostly underground.

EFE: Terrorists Kill Policeman in Ayacucho

PY031439 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0123 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 2 May (EFE)—Local police sources today reported that four alleged members of the Shining Path terrorist group have killed a policeman in Huanta, Ayacucho Province. Early this morning, while some 200 meters from the parade square, Peruvian Investigative Police Corporal Ricardo Ramos was shot while going on duty. The sources added that Shining Path members could have murdered Ramos as an act of retaliation, because he was part of the group that recently arrested Shining Path members who are now charged with killing the mayor of Huanta.

It was also reported that notes, in which the Shining Path calls for stoppages against the government in Ayacucho on 17 and 18 May, were found in several places in downtown Ayacucho.

Briefs

Inflation Rate

The National Institute of Statistics has reported that the inflation rate stood at 17 percent in April. Thus, the accrued inflation rate for the past 12 months stands now at 209 percent. [Summary] [*PY031457 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 May 88*]

Police Destroy Coca Leaves

Police have destroyed 600 kg of coca leaves and 80 kg of cocaine sulphate in Uchiza. They also confiscated 4.3 kg of cocaine paste, two shotguns, and a motor pump. Two drug traffickers were arrested. [Summary] [*PY031456 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 3 May 88*]

Venezuela

Lusinchi Terms Debt 'Political Problem'

PA0305233488 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 3 May 88

[Report by Martin Pacheco]

[Text] The international event that is getting much attention in the country, the seminar entitled "Latin America in the World's Economy," continues today with four working groups. These groups will draft policies and action plans that could be implemented in Latin American and industrialized countries to overcome the critical situation prevailing in most countries in the area.

Venezuela, through President Jaime Lusinchi, mentioned some of the plans during the event's inauguration. Lusinchi reiterated the urgent need to reintegrate our countries with the world's economy as the best path to face the chronic socioeconomic problems of developing nations.

President Lusinchi spoke during the seminar, which is organized by the Aspen Institute of Italy and cosponsored by SELA. Some 100 political, economic, cultural, and business authorities from the United States, Europe, and Latin America are participating in this seminar to conduct an overall analysis of the main economic matters affecting the region. The foreign debt, the trade situation, and investment prospects will be the subjects to be discussed during the 3-day meeting.

In his speech, President Lusinchi said the Latin American crisis is neither new nor unique. Economic and financial turmoil surrounding us makes this task more difficult. However, we have the responsibility of finding the most suitable solutions each day:

[Begin Lusinchi recording] The foreign debt problem is undoubtedly the most dramatic, and it deserves the most attention. Efforts to find solutions have thus far been directed beyond all historical prospects because some have insisted on treating the debt problem as a simple financial problem. The truth is the debt has turned into a political problem. Its negative effects have occurred to a large extent because of economic and monetary policy decisions made by developing countries. The consequences were neither anticipated nor could be taken into account at the time the corresponding loan agreements were signed.

Therefore, as long as we do not attack the root of the problem, it will not be possible to find the appropriate path to providing an acceptable and long-lasting solution. [end recording]

Protectionism and inbalances in international trade have reached the same negative dimension. According to President Lusinchi, during these years of crisis most industrialized countries have hampered access of our export products to international markets.

Former Sao Paolo Governor Andre Franco Montoro, from Brazil, said Latin America is today enduring the worst social and economic crisis in its history. Some figures provided by the main world organizations give a dramatic outlook for the region. The total foreign debt, which in 1982 amounted to $320 billion, rose to $410 billion at present. Latin America has paid $145 billion in debt service as of 1987.

Guyana

Attorney General Massiah Named Senior Counsel

FL0305030888 Bridgetown CANA in English 1655 GMT 29 May 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, April 29, CANA—New Attorney General Keith Massiah has been appointed a senior counsel, Guyana's equivalent to Queen's Counsel, and has been inserted into the number five spot in hierarchical structure of the People's National Congress (PNC) government.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Information, President Desmond Hoyte signed the instrument of appointment conferring the Dignity of Senior Counsel on Massiah on April 26. It explained that the office is conferred upon attorneys-at-law who have distinguished themselves in the practice of the law and have made outstanding contributions to the development of jurisprudence.

Massiah, who retired as chancellor of the judiciary on April 14 and was the following day appointed attorney general and a minister of government, sparking much controversy, has had a long and distinguished career spanning 30 years in the legal profession. Shortly after he was sworn in yesterday as non-elected member of Parliament, speaker Sase Narine announced that in the National Assembly Massiah will sit after the vice-presidents but before the deputy prime ministers.

At present there are three vice presidents—Prime Minister Hamilton Green, Ranji Chandisingh and Viola Burnham in that order of seniority—and two deputy prime ministers—Haslyn Parris and Robert Corbin.

Massiah replaces former vice president, attorney-general and minister of justice, Dr Mohamed Shahabuddeen, now a judge at the World Court in The Hague and who was senior to both Chandisingh and Burnham.

With his insertion into the hierarchy between the deputy prime ministers and the vice-president without being named either a vice president or a deputy prime minister is fueling speculation that he is likely to be name a vice president.

Meanwhile co-leader of the Working Peoples Alliance (WPA) Eusi Kwayana said on Thursday that the appointment of Guyana's recently retired Chancellor of the Judiciary Keith Massiah as the country's attorney general and minister of legal affairs has taken the deformation of Guyana's institutions to a new height. In a statement to the National Assembly before Massiah was sworn-in, Kwayana said that while the former chancellor will enrich debating in Parliament, his translation from chancellor to attorney general and minister of legal affairs will make the judiciary poorer. In my view, the judiciary will not be the same again now that it has joined the public service as a recruiting ground for party ministers, Kwayana said.

The lone WPA member of Parliament also contended that the country's legal and judicial culture of which Massiah is such an outstanding representative may have entered, with his translation, a period of long and uneasy captivity.

Suriname

Bouterse: Army To Guarantee 'Government' Peace

FL2904191288 Paramaribo International Service in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] The national Army will guarantee the government peace and give it the opportunity to carry out its duties.

This was stated last Wednesday by Commander Bouterse during a meeting of the military authority with cadres of the national Army.

The Army has not participated in the peace negotiations to solve the conflict in east Suriname because it is a government affair, said Bouterse. Bouterse added, the national Army is just the executor who must protect the national integrity and sovereignty of Suriname.

Commander Bouterse further thinks that a state council must be installed as soon as possible and failing to do so is unconstitutional.

Urges Maintaining Calm

FL2900193600 Paramaribo International Service in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Commander Desi Bouterse has called on soldiers to maintain the tranquillity and calm in each form of provocation. The Army commander made the call last Wednesday during a meeting of the military authorities with cadres of the national Army.

The commander's call came in the wake of protest actions being currently undertaken by the police.

Police Set Deadline for Resolving Complaints

FL2904161188 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT Apr 88

[Text] Surinamese police have set a deadline for today on resolving officers' complaints of military interference in their investigations.

Earlier this week in Suriname, the police staged a work slow down to protest what they called Army attempts to thwart investigations of Army conduct.

Officers have not said what steps they will take if there is not a satisfactory agreement with the Army.

Judge: Claims 'Slanderous'

FL2904192688 Parararibo International Service in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Judge Advocate (Allan Freita) has termed arrogant and slanderous accusations contained in a motion by the police union that he has consciously neglected to investigate certain affairs.

The motion, which was passed last Tuesday by the police union, rejects the agreement in principal because the union has (?objected to this).

In a letter to the union, the judge advocate said the negotiation attempts have ended with immediate effect, in view of the great form of insubordination by the architects of the motion.

However, he said that the agreement with the union would remain as required.

The police union had embarked on protest actions since last week after detectives complained they were threatened by soldiers who have been named as suspects in an investigation.

Netherlands Minister Invited To Discuss Treaty
FL0305191988 Paramaribo International Service in English 1830 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs here yesterday invited the Dutch minister of development and cooperation, Piet Bukman, on a working visit to Suriname.

Government spokesman (Glen Teidemann) told the daily DE WARE TIJD newspaper that the discussions will be especially aimed at the resumption of the development cooperation treaty [words indistinct]. This cooperation treaty was signed in 1975.

Projects which were executed and financed by Suriname after the treaty was disbanded by Holland will also be discussed. A commission has been installed to prepare for the visit of Minister Bukman, who arrives in the country on May 8th.

Bauxite Commission, Companies Sign Agreement
FL2904194688 Paramaribo International Service in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] On Wednesday last, a draft industrial agreement was signed between the Bauxite Commission and the bauxite companies Suralco and [name indistinct]. The agreement is aimed at guaranteeing the continuity of the bauxite and alumina industry for the next 20 years.

According to the commission, which is headed by Engineer (Elias), this move means a great number of jobs will be maintained.

Chairman of the Bauxite Federation, Fred Derby, said earlier this week that it isn't binding on the federation (?to lift up) or to respect the agreement in view of the fact that the unions were not involved in the negotiations.